

Icebreaker

Have you ever been disappointed by a Christmas present?

Emmaus

Read Luke 24:13-24.

Has your life ever been affected by the assassination of a public figure?

How would you feel if the person you had put your hope in was suddenly killed?

How would you feel if someone you loved came back from the dead, but didn't come to visit you?

The two guys on the road to Emmaus were disappointed in so many ways by Jesus, but their greatest disappointment is expressed in the line, "We had hoped he was the one who would redeem **Israel**." What's important to realize is that God's promises to Israel were never intended to be **for** Israel, but were intended to be **through** Israel.

Read Luke 24:36-47. What does Jesus say about the Old Testament prophecies concerning him?

The earliest followers of Jesus were disappointed in him because their expectations of him were too narrow. They were only thinking of earthly liberation. Their expectations were too selfish. They were only thinking about the benefit to themselves. However, the real Messiah was always supposed to bring about an eternal liberation that would be for all people from all nations. Jesus had no choice but to disappoint them.

Read Galatians 3:14 What is this verse saying to you?

Take it Home

Any time our eyes are on ourselves, we are bound to be disappointed by Jesus. But when our eyes are on the **eternal** work Jesus is doing for **all** people, our own disappointment fades away.

How does considering eternity act as an antidote for disappointment?

How does considering others act as an antidote for disappointment?



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